

To : Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

From : Gerry Hyland, Supervisor  
Mount Vernon District

Subject: **BOARD MATTERS for April 9, 2013**

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For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

- 1. Request for a Proclamation on the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Gum Springs Community**
- 2. Consideration Items for the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget**

## **1. Request for a Proclamation on the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Gum Springs Community**

### ***Background***

Historic African-American communities are a symbolic monument to the perseverance and enduring spirit of the African-American people. The Commonwealth of Virginia, commonly called the "gateway to history," houses one such community. Gum Springs was named after a gum tree that once marked its location near historic Mount Vernon. The community was founded by patriarchal freeman, West Ford, who allowed the land he inherited from the family of George Washington to become a refuge for freed and runaway slaves during and after the Civil War.

The location became a *depot* where many newly freed slaves came to be reunited with their separated families, or to settle as newly emancipated people. The African Americans of Gum Springs began erecting homes and developing the life of their independent community. With the help of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Quaker community, Gum Springs residents established means of economic survival through farming, in the lumber industry, and in trades. The small community prospered and grew. Today, Gum Springs has over 2,500 residents, many of whom are descendants of the original folk who lived there. The proud history of Gum Springs is preserved through its community and the Gum Springs Historical Society. This year, Gum Springs celebrates the 180<sup>th</sup> year of its founding at their annual community day on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Proposed Action***

Therefore, Madame Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation commending and congratulating the Gum Springs Community, the oldest African-American community in Fairfax County, on the occasion of their 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **2. Consideration Items for the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget**

### ***Background***

Over the next three nights, we will hear from a number of Fairfax County residents, employees and interest groups on the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 budget and how funding levels translate into our quality of life and shared community values. After hearing from the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, the South County Federation, the Human Services Council and Fairfax County Employees, I request the Board's support to add to the list of consideration items.

- Countywide Market Rate Adjustment of 1% - \$11 million
- Restoration of the Station Logistic Technicians - \$234,863
- Restoration of Public Safety Merit Increments - \$2.02 million
- Social Security Offset reduction from 25% to 15% - \$228,574

### ***Proposed Action***

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask that the Board add the aforementioned items to the Board's Consideration Item list as we deliberate the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget.